

# HALL-MILLS MURDER JURY CHOSEN AN HOUR AFTER THE TRIAL OPENS

## Clashes Between Counsel And Prosecutor Mark Early Stages of Case

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charming, athletic-looking minister.

"She looked to this man as a sort of God, who completely swayed her," the prosecutor declared, "and there soon de-



MRS. ELEANOR MILLS

veloped a relation which was not spiritual."

### Circumstantial Evidence

Simpson indicated that he would seek to prove his contention of guilt, to a marked extent, by circumstantial evidence. He spent several minutes explaining its importance and made no mention of producing an eye-witness other than Jane Gibson.

He emphasized, however, that the state would place "three or four"

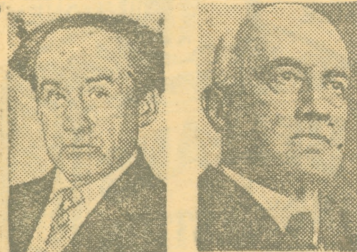
Ralph Gorsline Mrs. Jane Gibson  
Witness Pig Woman

witnesses on the stand who would confirm Mrs. Gibson's story as to the time of the slayings, and the order of the shots—first one, a pause, and then three in rapid succession.

Dramatically waving a calling card he had taken from his pocket, Simpson made as if to place it at the feet of a body stretched out before him and declared that, through two experts, the state would prove that it contained the fingerprints of Willie Stevens.

The prosecutor cautioned the jurors that the memory of some witnesses might have been dimmed, due to the length of time since the crime was committed.

When court convened after lunch the first witness, called by Simp-

Alex. Simpson Chas. W. Parker  
Prosecutor Presiding Judge

son, was John S. Dickson of North Plainfield.

Dickson, a Wall Street accountant, said that a man called at his home, asking to be directed to the Parker House, "down the lane."

"What else did he say?" Simpson prompted.

"He said his sister dropped him off at the Parker House and he wanted to get back there."

Here Dickson left the witness stand, walked to Willie Stevens and placed a hand on his shoulder.

"This is the man," Dickson accused.

Dickson then related how he had walked Willie to the corner, offered him carfare, but Willie said he had plenty of money.

Dickson then asked Willie what time it was. The latter drew out an open-face watch and showed him it was 8.45 p. m.

Willie further explained, Dickson continued, that the Parker home was an institute for the aged. He and his wife saw Willie walk out of sight in the darkness. The

Charlotte Mills James Mills  
Victim's Daughter Victim's Husband

witness could not tell if his visitor had boarded a trolley car.

### Sharp Cross-Examination

Case sharply cross-examined Dickson on his place of employment. He also asked the witness the ages of his children, at the time of Willie's call and today.

"My daughter, then 13, had retired," Dickson answered.

"Who was in the room when this man came?"

"My wife was in the kitchen. I was in the dining room."

"Peering through the screen was a man. I asked him what he wanted. He inquired for the Parker House."

"I said there was no such place in the neighborhood."

Here Case delayed the testimony

Inspector Underwood Mrs. Anna Hoag  
Witness Witness

by a fifteen-minute examination of Dickson on his geographic knowledge of the community.

### Told Man He Was Lost

"The man said the Parker House is in Bound Brook," Dickson continued. "I told him he was lost—that he was in North Plainfield."

"I observed the man was greatly agitated. He was anxious to get out of the neighborhood."

Case tried to trip Dickson on his description of Willie's watch. The witness exasperated his questioner by his calmness and deliberation.

The man wore a derby hat and no glasses, Dickson said.

"He said he could not read at night, to see the proper trolley."

"He said, when I commented on

### The Accused



MRS. E. W. HALL



HENRY STEVENS



WILLIE STEVENS

his condition, that he was an epileptic.

### Had Hand Like Woman's

"I took him by the hand. It was a soft, cold hand, like a woman's." "My wife remarked that it was a shame for him to be out alone."

Willie and Henry Stevens exchanged grins as Dickson testified. Willie glanced at his hands, squeezing one with the other.

Mrs. Charlotte Dickson followed her husband on the stand. Examined by Simpson she said:—

"A man came to our house on the night of September 14, 1922."

Here Mrs. Dickson left the stand, walked to Willie Stevens and took him by the hand.

### Crowd Appears at Dawn

Dawn found the curious gathering in front of the staid old court house. Somerville and the surrounding countryside were up early to be in at the start of its greatest event.

It was a jolly, somewhat callous

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## 'Pig Woman,' Mystery Child on Hand, Stevens Family Holds Prayers

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the trial was an hour old. As the hands of the big clock on the wall ticked off the minutes it seemed as if this prophecy would be fulfilled, as the work of examination proceeded with dispatch.

### Probably Sets Record

When the last man had taken his seat in the box and the prosecution prepared to open its case it was seen the Simpson estimate was only twenty minutes off. Even with this, it is probable that never before has a jury been compiled in so important a murder case within such a short time.

It is a body of old men, in whose hands the fate of the defendants rests. One member has passed the 70 mark, three are over 65. Only three have failed to reach the sixtieth milestone of life.

With the small panel available, it had been feared that the jury might not be completed today. This feeling became more intense as some of the veniremen failed to respond to their names.

### Two Fail to Answer

John L. Hosner, the first to be called, was absent. The second, John A. Dunster, passed unchallenged. A third man failed to respond and another was challenged

Mark Kimberling J. J. Lamb  
State Trooper State Trooper

by Simpson. Then John W. Young took a seat in the box next to Dunster.

From that point on the proceedings were speeded up, heightened now and then by a touch of humor or pathos. Samuel Packer, a barber, admitted he had shaved Willie Stevens in the latter's cell in the county jail and had talked with him concerning the case. Packer was excused.

### Excuse Deaf Men

Rudolph Steffans, who digs wells for a living, was accepted. So was John B. Stryker.

When William S. Smith, elderly farmer, presented himself for examination it was discovered he was deaf. Cornelius Hickey, who followed him, also suffers from

Robert McCarter Timothy Pfeiffer  
Defense Attorney Defense Attorney

poor hearing. Simpson, anxious to obtain the jury, was willing to accept Hickey, but Senator Case of defense counsel demurred.

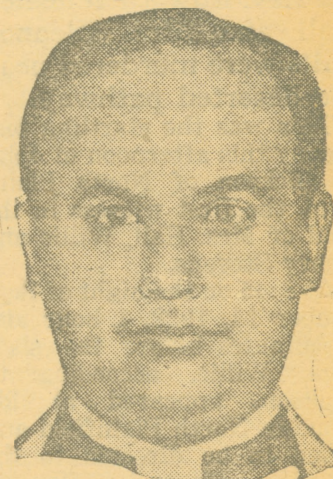
Edward S. Tillman was next accepted. So was Edward Glazer, a postmaster, who begged to be excused. George B. Seyforth explained to the court as his reason for not serving that his wife had died recently, his son's wife is criti-

cally ill in New York, he has a farm to till and he knew the defense counsel.

### Makes Courtroom Laugh

Seyforth admitted he was prejudiced, and added he would never vote to convict on circumstantial evidence.

A garrulous fellow, Seyforth attempted to cite hypothetical cases. "A man once came out of a saloon," he began, but halted when



REV. E. W. HALL

spectators roared. The court rapped for order.

Justice Parker saw a photographer working his machine, and it was confiscated. Seyforth was disqualified.

### Simpson Accuses Man

Fred Sago was next accepted. When Robert S. Brunt, employed on a local weekly publication unfriendly to Simpson was called, the special prosecutor accused him of trying to block the indictments against the defendants by influencing a grand jury member.

Raymond Young was next in the

Louise Geist Riehl Marie Gildea  
Witness Witness

box. Charles V. H. Skillman, with a walrus mustache, was accepted. William Dalley was the ninth juror and George D. H. was the tenth. Samuel B. H. was then accepted and Joseph A. H. completed the body.

As soon as the twelve were in the seats, Justice Parker ordered a short recess.

## Wins Big Smith Bet, Buys Out Store to Treat East Side

The lower east side celebrated with former Judge Charles A. Nack of 253 Madison St., today.

So elated was he over winning a parlay bet on Smith and Wagner, said to amount to several thousand dollars, that he bought out the entire stock of a candy and cigar shop, at a cost of \$2,000 and "treated the gang."